

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 15011 031221Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NSCE-00 SAM-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /090 W

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P 031111Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0782

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: THAI-DRV RELATIONS CONDITIONED ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL

REF : FBIS SAIGON 030520 DECEMBER 74 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN A NOVEMBER 27 LETTER THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD HIS THAI COUNTERPART THAT HANOI WOULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE "IMMEDIATELY" THE NORMALIZATION OF DRV/RTG RELATIONS IF THE RTG "COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY" RIDS THAILAND OF U.S. TROOPS AND BASES AND "TRULY RESPECTS THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF THE VARIOUS INDOCHINESE PEOPLES. ON THE HEELS OF RECENT RTG FEELERS, HANOI'S DEMARCHE IS SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO PUT THE BALL BACK IN BANGKOK'S COURT WITHOUT MODERATING THE DRV'S TRUCULENT STAND. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 15011 031221Z

1. ON DECEMBER 3, HANOI RADIO BROADCAST (REF) WHAT IT SAID WAS THE

TEXT OF A NOVEMBER 27 LETTER FROM DRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH TO HIS THAI COUNTERPART, FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN. THE LETTER ASSERTS THAT NORMALIZATION OF DRV/RTG RELATIONS IS AN "EARNEST REQUIREMENT" AND "LEGITIMATE INTEREST" OF THE THAI AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLES. IT ACCUSES THE U.S. OF USING ITS INSTALLATIONS IN THAILAND TO "DETER THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE" IN INDOCHINA AND AVERS THAT THE "MOVEMENT" DEMANDING THAT THE U.S. LEAVE THE AREA AND THAT THE RTG "RENOUNCE" ITS POLICY OF "COLLUSION" WITH THE U.S. HAS DEVELOPED "VIGOROUSLY" IN THAILAND, THE REST OF ASIA AND THE U.S.

2. WITH TYPICAL DELICACY, HANOI GOES ON TO CHARGE THE RTG WITH "COUNTLESS CRIMES" AGAINST VIET-NAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA. SKIRTING PROVEN INSTANCES OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PENETRATION, SUBVERSION AND SABOTAGE IN THAILAND, THE LETTER CLAIMS THAT "NEVER HAS THE ARMY OF ANY INDOCHINESE COUNTRY WAGED WAR ON THAI TERRITORY."

3. THE KEY PASSAGE OF THE LETTER STATES THAT "THE SOLE OBSTACLE" TO NORMALIZATION OF DRV/RTG RELATIONS IS THE LATTER'S "POLICY OF SERVING THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' AGGRESSIVE AND INTERVENTIONIST SCHEMES IN INDOCHINA." IF THE RTG "COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY" RIDS THAILAND OF U.S. "TROOPS AND MILITARY BASES" AND "TRULY RESPECTS THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF ITS INDOCHINESE NEIGHBORS, THE DRV WOULD BE READY "IMMEDIATELY" TO NEGOTIATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: HANOI APPARENTLY JUDGED THAT AN OFFICIAL, FORMAL REPLY TO RECENT RTG AND PRIVATE PROBES WAS IN ORDER. WHILE TRINH'S LETTER IS CORRECT AND POLITE IN TONE, IT IS UNYIELDING IN SUBSTANCE, DEMANDING THAT THE RTG VIRTUALLY ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AS A PRECONDITION TO DISCUSSING NORMALIZATION. AS USUAL, HANOI THROWS IN ANOTHER PRECONDITION (THAT THAILAND "TRULY RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF THE VARIOUS INDOCHINESE PEOPLE), WHICH AMOUNTS TO ACCEPTANCE OF HANOI'S VIEW OF ITS OWN PREEMINENT POSITION IN INDO-CHINA, ESPECIALLY VIETNAM. THUS, EVEN SHOULD THE RTG SUBMIT TO THE DRV'S INSISTENCE ON DICTATING BANGKOK'S POLICIES TOWARD THE U.S., HANOI COULD AND PROBABLY WOULD STILL REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE ON NORMALIZING RELATIONS OVER SOME ALLEGED RTG ACT OF DISRESPECT OF WHAT HANOI HAS DECIDED ARE "FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS"

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 15011 031221Z

OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES. END COMMENT.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON15011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740350-0072
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741264/aaaaccze.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS SAIGON 030520 DECEMBER 74 (NOTA, L)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-DRV RELATIONS CONDITIONED ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005